

Ten Rules to Live By

1. Use every opportunity, positive or negative, to your advantage.
2. Fight back when necessary. Remember what it took to get our right to vote, remember what it took to get Title IX passed, and think about what a difference these measures made.
3. Build your support before you need it – don't wait for a crisis.
4. Keep focused on your goal – remember why you are here.
5. Keep a sense of humor – remember there is a pony in that pile somewhere.
6. Insist on absolute integrity at all times. Don't take short cuts. They will defeat you in the long run.
7. Don't burn bridges. Today's enemy is tomorrow's best friend.
8. Compromise. It is not a dirty word, and it's not half a loaf. It's the art of creating a new solution that everyone involved can support. Remember, there is little in life or politics that is black and white.
9. Find a mentor and be a mentor. Surround yourself with talented people, work cooperatively, and help other women to reach their goals.
10. Love what you do. At the end of the day, you have to be able to go home proud of what you have done and looking forward to going back in the morning, no matter the stress or pressure. You have to love it.

From *Skirting Tradition: Women in Politics Speak to the Next Generation*, edited by Lia Larson. The rules are taken from a chapter by Sheila Burke, entitled "The Top Job." Ms. Burke is a current professor and former Executive Dean at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Previously she was Chief of Staff to former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.